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Environment Department Signs Historic Agreement with Federal OSHA

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (OHSB) today announced the signing of a reciprocity agreement with the Dallas regional office of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration. This agreement, the first of its kind in the country, will allow construction companies working on sites under federal jurisdiction to continue to participate in state incentive programs. The agreement provides for consistent implementation of the partnerships developed with the Associated Building Contractors (ABC) and the Associated General Contractors (AGC).

"NMED's OHS Bureau works hard to protect all of New Mexico's workers," said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. "Few jobs pose as much risk for injury as those in construction. That is why we are proud of these partnerships. They recognize companies that are making steps to reduce injuries at the construction site."

"Many construction companies working in New Mexico have sites under State jurisdiction and sites under Federal jurisdiction," said John B. Miles, OSHA's Regional Administrator for Region VI. "Federal OSHA will honor the incentive provisions outlined in the ABC and AGC partnerships for companies who have achieved recognition status, while they are working in areas of Federal jurisdiction within the State."

The ABC's *Construction Leaders Agreement for Safety Partnership* (CLAS) program provides for four levels of achievement: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. The AGC's *Construction Health and Safety Excellence* (CHASE) partnership program consists of three levels of safety achievement — White, Red, and Blue. At these programs highest levels, participants earn an exemption from programmed enforcement inspections for 12 months and receive unprogrammed inspections only in response to reports of imminent danger, fatalities/catastrophes and signed formal complaints.

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